GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3748
ANSWERED ON:09.08.2017
Wi-Fi Hotspot in Rural Areas
Bhatt Smt.Ranjanben;Patil Shri A.T. (Nana)

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is considering to set up Wi-Fi hotspot in the rural areas and rural exchanges of the country, especially in the State of Maharashtra and if so, the details thereof, State/UT-wise;

(b) the steps taken by the Government in this regard;

(c) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(d) the time by which the said project is likely to be implemented?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE (IC) OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS &
MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS
(SHRI MANOJ SINHA)
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(a) to (d) BharatNetProject is being implemented to provide broadband connectivity to all the Gram Panchayats (approximately 2,50,000) in the country. Government has approved the revised implementation strategy of BharatNet on 19.07.2017 under which last mile connectivity for internet service, through Wi-Fi any other suitable broadband technology, is proposed to cover all the GPs by March, 2019.

Bharat Sanchar Nigam Limited (BSNL) is setting up Public Wi-Fi hotspots at rural Telephone Exchanges of BSNL targeted to be implemented by December, 2017. State-wise details including Maharashtra are at Annexure-I. Further, Common Service Centre-Special Purpose Vehicle (CSC-SPV), under the Ministry of Electronics & Information Technology is also setting up Wi-Fi Choupals under BharatNet in the country targeted to be implemented by September, 2017. Details including Maharashtra is at Annexure-II.

Contdâ€¦.2/-

S.No.	Telecom Circle/ Telecom District	No. of Rural Telephone Exchanges
1	Andaman& Nicobar	44
2	Andhra Pradesh& Telangana	2519
3	Assam	400
4	Bihar	963
5	Chhattisgarh	356
6	Gujarat	1881
7	Haryana	796
8	Himachal Pradesh	946
9	Jammu& Kashmir	204
10	Jharkhand	293
11	Karnataka	2199
12	Kerala	1049
13	Madhya Pradesh	1793
14	Maharashtra	3832
15	North East-I	129
16	North East-II	142
17	Odisha	811
18	Punjab	1194
19	Rajasthan	1672
20	Tamil Nadu	1195
21	Uttar Pradesh(E)	1542
22	Uttar Pradesh(W)	503
23	Uttarakhand	315
24	West Bengal	1127
25	Chennai	80
Total		25985

Annexure-I
BSNL Rural Telephone Exchanges where Wi-fi will be set up

Annexure-II
Wi-Fi Choupals by CSC-SPV under BharatNet Scheme

SL. No	STATE	Gram Panchayats
1	Bihar	316
2	Chandigarh	12
3	Chhattisgarh	797
4	Jharkhand	313
5	Karnataka	178
6	Kerala	25
7	Madhya Pradesh	1422
8	Maharashtra	137
9	Odisha	111
10	Puducherry	93
11	Uttar Pradesh	1268
12	Uttarakhand	417
Total		5089

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